

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Following the amendments, claims 11-25 are under consideration, with claims 14 and 19 being in independent format.

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. Specifically, the phrase "the outlet side 11 of the insertion rising tube 1" on page 4, line 26, of the specification, has been corrected to read "the outlet side 11 of the housing 5." Support for this amendment can be found at page 4, lines 19-21, of the specification and in Figs. 1 and 2 as originally filed.

Claims 1 and 7-10 have been cancelled from the application and claims 14-25 have been added. Newly added independent claim 14 is drawn to subject matter previously recited in claims 7 and 9. Support for newly added claims 15-18, which depend on claim 14, can be found, for example, at page 4, line 31 to page 5, line 1 of the specification as originally filed. Claims 11-13 have been amended to depend upon new claim 14. In addition, claim 11 has been amended to clarify that the inlet side and outlet sides of the housing enclose an angle between about 120° and 150°.

Newly added independent claim 19 is drawn to a showering device comprising (a) a housing in the form of a hand-grip body having an inlet side and an outlet side, wherein the inlet side and the outlet side of the housing enclose an angle between about 120° and 150°; (b) a shut-off valve located in proximity to the inlet side of the housing; (c) a housing closure located on the outlet side of the housing; and (d) an angled insertion rinsing tube having an inlet side and an outlet side, wherein the insertion rinsing tube passes through the housing closure and is sealably and exchangeably held in a bore in the housing. Newly added claims 20-25 all depend upon claim 19 and mirror the subject matter of claims 12, 13 and 15-18.

It is urged that support for all the above amendments can be found throughout the application as originally filed and that none of the amendments constitute new matter or raise new issues for consideration.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his telephone discussion with the applicant's representative on January 10, 2007.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, enablement

Claims 1 and 7-13 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as lacking an enabling disclosure. This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has objected to the phrase “held in a bore in the housing by means of a seal” in claim 1. As noted above, claim 1 has been cancelled from the application, thereby rendering this objection moot.

The Examiner states that “claim 13 fails to find support in the disclosure as the only recitation of this degree range is found for angle beta”. Applicant respectfully notes that, as clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the application and described on page 4, lines 27-30, of the specification, angle beta does indeed correspond to the angle enclosed by the outlet side of the insertion rinsing tube and the inlet side of the housing as recited in claim 13.

It is respectfully submitted that, on being provided with the instant specification, one of skill in the art to which the present invention pertains would clearly be able to make and use the presently claimed device, and that this rejection of the claims under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, may thus be properly withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

Claims 1 and 7-13 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically the Examiner objected to the language of claims 1, 8 and 11. As noted above, claims 1 and 8 have been cancelled from the application, and claim 11 has been amended to clarify that it is the inlet side of the housing and the outlet side of the housing that enclose an angle between about 120° and 150°.

It is submitted that, following entry of the above amendments, all the pending claims fully satisfy the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph, and that this rejection of the claims may therefore be properly withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1, 7, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by DE 29800816 to Schramm. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claims 1, 7 and 10 have been cancelled from the application. Newly added independent claim 14 recites subject matter previously recited in claims 7 and 9. Applicant notes that claim 9 was not previously rejected as being taught by the prior art.

More specifically, independent claim 14 is drawn to a showering device comprising: (a) a housing having an inlet side and an outlet side; (b) a shut-off valve located in proximity to the inlet side of the housing; (c) a housing closure located on the outlet side of the housing; and (d) an insertion rinsing tube having an inlet side and an outlet side, wherein the insertion rinsing tube passes through the housing closure and is held in a bore in the housing, and wherein the inlet side of the insertion rinsing tube and the outlet side of the insertion rinsing tube enclose an angle of about 90°.

An English language translation of the Schramm reference is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's convenience. As can be seen from this translation, Schramm discloses an anal showering device consisting of a shower hose 10, a U-shaped end tube 18, a spray nozzle 24 positioned at the end of end tube 18, and a push button valve 16 that releases the water flow. In certain embodiments, valve 16 is incorporated in a handle 14. Schramm does not teach or suggest a device having an insertion rinsing tube wherein the inlet side and the outlet side of the insertion rinsing tube enclose an angle of about 90° as recited in present claim 14.

Applicant also notes that in the device of Schramm, valve 16 is not located in proximity to the *inlet* side of handle 14, but rather is positioned in proximity to the *outlet* side of the handle, making the device more difficult to use. It is submitted that this location of valve 16 in the Schramm device means that end tube 18 cannot be held in a bore in handle 14, as in the presently claimed device, as the position of valve 16 would conflict with, and prevent the use of, such a bore to hold the end tube.

Furthermore, the only figure of Schramm clearly shows that the inlet side and outlet side of handle 14 enclosed an angle of approximately 90°. Schramm does not teach or suggest a device wherein the inlet and outlet sides of the housing enclosed an angle between about 120° and 150° as recited in newly added independent claim 19. This difference in the handle configuration, results in Schramm's device being less convenient to use than the currently claimed device.

It is urged that Schramm neither anticipates, nor renders obvious, the presently claimed

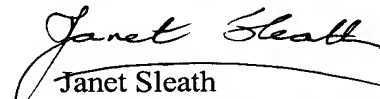
device and that this rejection of the claims under 35 USC §102(b) may thus be properly withdrawn.

Concluding Remarks

A Request for a One Month Extension of Time, extending the deadline for response to Saturday, February 10, 2007, is submitted herewith.

Every effort has been made to put the pending claims in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further concerns regarding this application, he is requested to telephone the undersigned at 206.382.1191.

Respectfully submitted,


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